

THE OLD FEDERAL ROAD IN ALABAMA

An Illustrated Guide

Kathryn H. Braund, Gregory A. Waselkov, and Raven M. Christopher

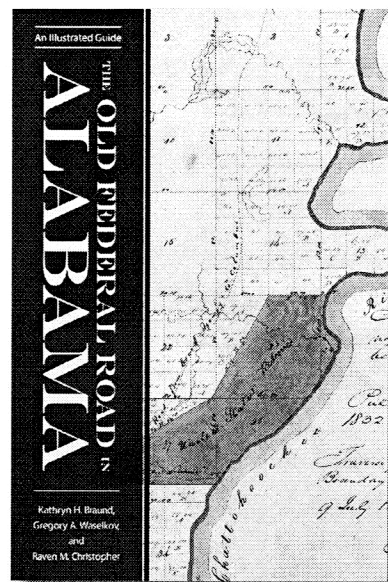
A concise illustrated guidebook for those wishing to explore and know more about the storied gateway that made possible Alabama's development

Forged through the territory of the Creek Nation by the United States federal government, the Federal Road was developed as a communication artery linking the east coast of the United States with Louisiana. Its creation amplified already tense relationships between the government, settlers, and the Creek Nation, culminating in the devastating Creek War of 1813–1814, and thereafter it became the primary avenue of immigration for thousands of Alabama settlers.

Central to understanding Alabama's territorial and early statehood years, the Federal Road was both a physical and symbolic thoroughfare that cut a swath of shattering change through the land and cultures it traversed. The road revolutionized Alabama's expansion, altering the course of its development by playing a significant role in sparking a cataclysmic war, facilitating unprecedented American immigration, and enabling an associated radical transformation of the land itself.

The first half of *The Old Federal Road in Alabama: An Illustrated Guide* offers a narrative history that includes brief accounts of the construction of the road, the experiences of historic travelers, and descriptions of major changes to the road over time. The authors vividly reconstruct the course of the road in detail and make use of a wealth of well-chosen illustrations. Along the way they give attention to the very terrain it traversed, bringing to life what traveling the road must have been like and illuminating its story in a way few others have ever attempted.

The second half of the volume is divided into three parts—Eastern, Central, and Southern—and serves as a modern traveler's guide to the Federal Road. This section includes driving tours and maps, highlighting historical sites and surviving portions of the old road and how to visit them.



232 pages • \$24.95 \$17.00 paper
ISBN-13: 978-0-8173-5930-0

"While much has been written about the Federal Road's passage through Alabama, this is the first detailed guide that allows modern-day readers to travel portions of the old road where possible and to see significant sites along the way, including historical markers, museums, a wildlife refuge, a national forest, sites of forts, sites of Creek stands and taverns, monuments, and historical parks."

—Herbert James Lewis, author of *Alabama Founders: Fourteen Political and Military Leaders Who Shaped the State* and *Clearing the Thickets: A History of Antebellum Alabama*

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